

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

creating a connection between a pedestal and a base, said pedestal to create an interrogation zone for interrogating one or more security tags;
monitoring said connection; and
generating an alarm signal if said connection is broken.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

sending said alarm signal to an alarm system;
receiving said alarm signal at said alarm system; and
generating an alarm in response to said alarm signal.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said connection is a ground connection.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said generating comprises:

removing said pedestal from said base; and
breaking said connection in accordance with said removal.

5. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said alarm comprises at least one of an audio alarm, visual alarm and silent alarm to represent unauthorized removal of said pedestal from said base.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, further comprising:

detecting that said connection has been created;

sending a cease alarm signal to ~~said~~ an alarm unit.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a pedestal to create an interrogation zone for interrogating one or more security tags;

a base to couple to said pedestal; and

an alarm subsystem to generate an alarm signal if said pedestal is removed from said base.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said alarm subsystem comprises:

a circuit to create a connection between said pedestal and said base; and

a monitor to monitor said connection and generate said alarm signal if said connection is broken.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising an alarm system to communicate with said alarm subsystem, said alarm system to receive said alarm signal and generate ~~and~~ an alarm in response to said alarm signal.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said pedestal further comprises an antenna to communicate radio-frequency signals to create ~~an~~ said interrogation zone.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said base further comprises a reader system to communicate interrogation signals to an antenna.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising a security tag to communicate with a radio-frequency reader system.

13. (Currently Amended) An article comprising:

a storage medium;

said storage medium including stored instructions that, when executed by a processor, result in creating a connection between a pedestal and a base, monitoring said connection, and generating an alarm signal if said connection is broken,

wherein said pedestal is to create an interrogation zone for interrogating one or more security tags.

14. (Original) The article of claim 13, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in sending said alarm signal to an alarm generator, receiving said alarm signal at said alarm generator, and generating an alarm in response to said alarm signal.

15. (Original) The article of claim 13, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in said generating by removing said pedestal from said base, and breaking said connection in accordance with said removal.